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PAGE 1 TOPICS:

INTRODUCTION

THE WEATHER

NEWSLETTER

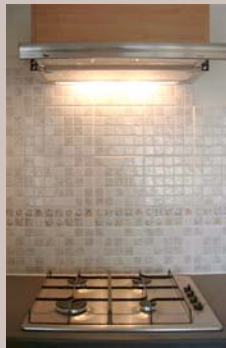
Introduction....

Hello again from **John and Elaine** in Spain. We have been really busy during the last three months working on the interior of the first Guest Flat. We have now completed (all but decoration) the Kitchen and Bathroom. Once again we would like to thank all of you who contacted us after receiving the last Newsletter and glad you found it interesting.

The Weather....

This Winter has not been as extreme as last year although we did have one substantial snowfall in January which quickly disappeared the next day when the sun came out ☺



PAGE 2 TOPICS:**RENOVATIONS...****KITCHEN****Renovations.... Kitchen**

The first project to be completed since the last newsletter was the kitchen. This room was a funny shaped bedroom originally.

The kitchen now has a new pilot-less boiler (which also serves the new bathroom next door). A Bosch Gas Hob with electric ignition and extraction unit.



A stainless steel sink with filtered drinking water tap. Kitchen units with ample storage space and work surface.

PAGE 3 TOPICS:

RENOVATIONS...

BATHROOM

Renovations...Bathroom

The old bathroom originally contained a small boiler, which supplied hot water to a shower (of sorts) but only cold water to the sink. As it is now illegal to put a gas boiler in a bathroom it had to be moved to the new kitchen and subsequently there was a considerable amount of plumbing to be done. (Yes, we can afford a new toilet seat.... a blue one is on order from 'Roca' ☺)



The Christening and Christmas Day (that wasn't) ... by Elaine

Whilst at our neighbour's for drinks late on Christmas Eve we were surprised to learn that the Christening of their new grand-daughter, Magdalena, was going to take place on Christmas day at 12 noon! John had promised he would take a DVD of the day for them as a keepsake so we had no choice but to go. On Christmas day we prepared the turkey and vegetables and reminded each other we must turn the oven on before we go out at 11.30.



Off we went to the Christening (we sat through a full mass before the event ☺) Eventually it took place at about 2.30 When the christening was over we remembered we had not turned the oven on!

On the way home our convoy of cars unexpectedly pulled up at the local bar for a celebratory drink and Tapas. (John ran up the road to our house to turn on the oven!)

When we eventually arrived home we tried to escape but the neighbours were having non of it! No, no, they insisted you must eat with us "But what about our B***** turkey?" John and I said to each other. We decided we would try not to eat too much and save room for our Christmas Dinner later.



PROUD PARENTS

The traditional Spanish food came as something of a shock! It was a greasy liquid with turkey (that is, all the bits we discard like the neck etc.) Bits of boiled egg were floating in it along with these strange tasting meatballs! John was gagging on it as he attempted to eat some of it. When they realized we didn't like it they quickly took it awayand cooked us an alternative! For sweet we had melon and cakes and we sat trying to think of a really good excuse to escape for our now overcooked Christmas Dinner that was about to become Christmas Supper. We eventually were released on bail to ring our families at about 7.30pm on the condition we reported back afterwards for our coffee!

We could eat very little of our Christmas 'Supper' so we had another 'official' Christmas Day lunch..... two days later!



PAGE 4 TOPICS:

THE CHRISTENING AND CHRISTMAS DAY...



OUTSIDE THE CHURCH



THE GODPARENTS



PROUD GRANDPARENTS

PAGE 5 TOPICS:**THE NEW YEAR PARTY**

OUR FRIEND ALAN (WHO LIVES HERE ON HIS OWN) WITH HIS CHRISTMAS PRESENT FROM US. A NEW PARTNER!!



UNFORTUNATELY SHE HAD A FEW DRINKS AND WAS ALREADY BEING UNFAITHFUL TO HIM BY THE END OF THE EVENING!

The New Year Party

One of our English friends said they were thinking about having a New Year party. "Great, at your place?" we said. "No, in your Bar actually" was the reply! "We will give you a hand with the food!"

The 'Bar' has not been touched since we arrived and I am under strict instructions that it 'will' be the 'last' place you renovate! ☹️ So at present it serves as tool storage and workshop.



Please believe me when I tell you it took a 'lot' of hard work to get it to look like this ready for all our guests to arrive.

Our English friends and Spanish neighbours all had a great time and we tuned-in to the local radio station to get the midnight 'bongs' from Madrid!



We all complied with Spanish tradition and ate a grape on each 'bong' of midnight. Not as easy to do as you might imagine especially when my grapes had been 'doctored' and soaked in Anise!! (Hic!)



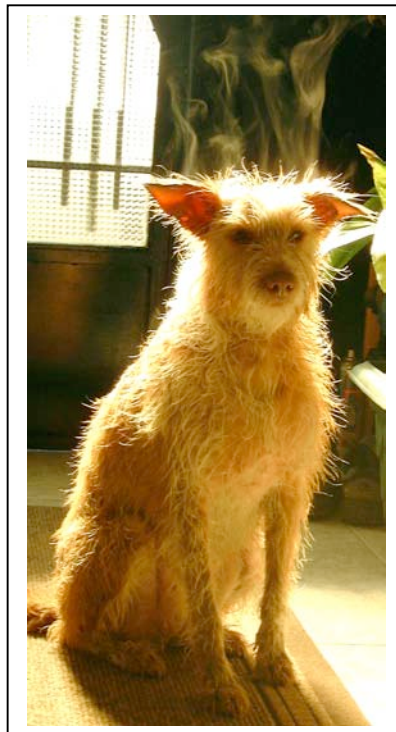
PAGE 6 TOPICS:

AND FINALLY...

FINALLY...

And Finally...

This Sax Playing person (bearing my name) mysteriously appeared overnight **cemented** to our garden wall! Our neighbours say they 'gnome' nothing about it but we are 'dwarfly' suspicious they have been up to 'gnome' good!

**And Finally...finally...**

Remember 'Muttley' our poor half-starved stray dog? Just look at her now! Freshly bathed and 'steaming' herself dry in the hallway!

EMAIL?

If you are receiving a paper copy of this Newsletter and you have EMAIL please let us know so we can save a few trees!! ☺

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